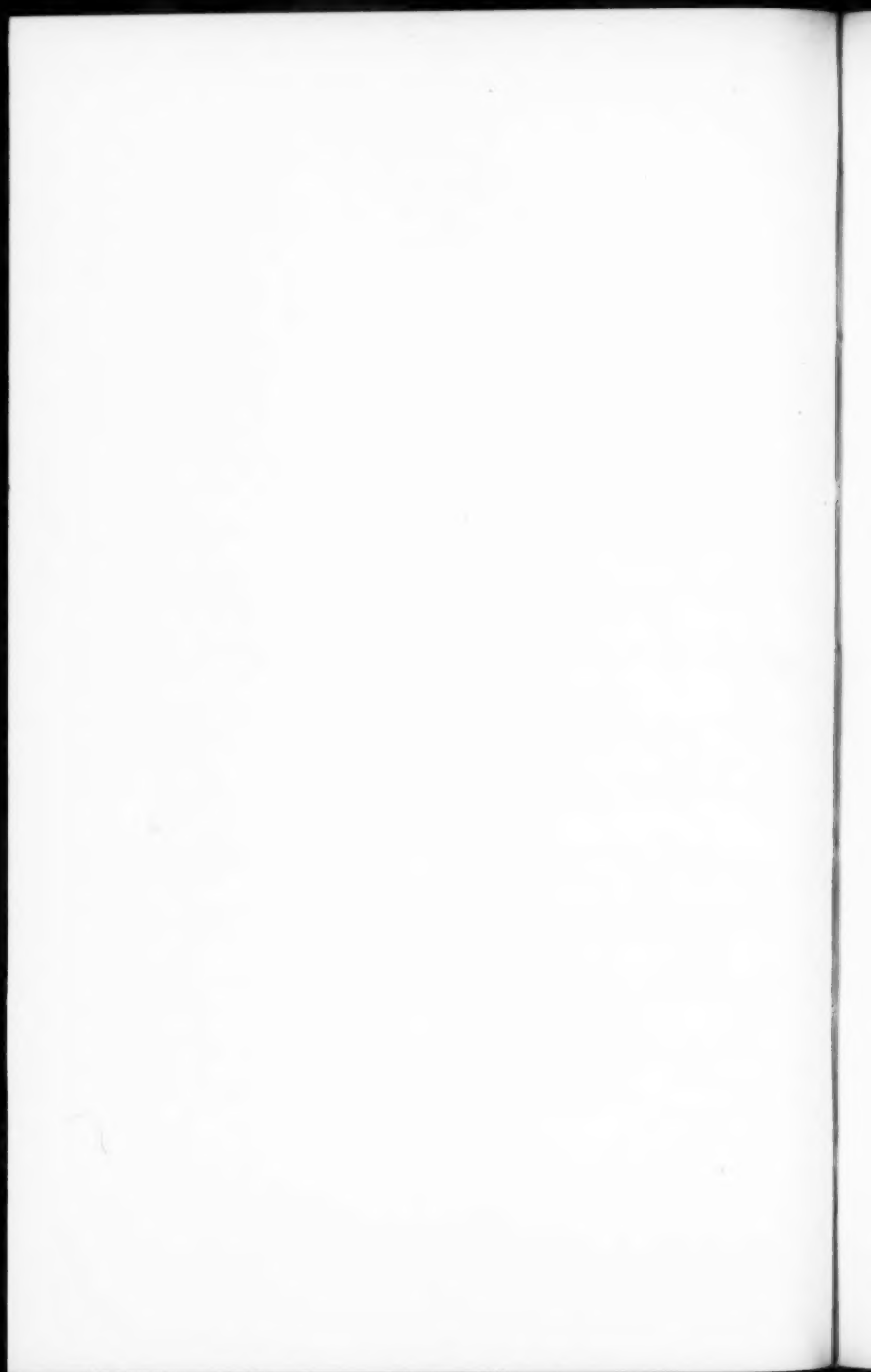


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THE MONROE DOCTRINE AND THE WAR

In one sense at least it may be said that we are entering the Great War as a united people. Nearly every one says, "There was nothing else we could do." Nevertheless, in the minds of many, probably in the minds of a majority, this very common expression implies that it is too bad we could not have done "something else"; too bad, that is, not only because it is always unfortunate to have to wage war, but because for the United States to wage war in Europe means a sharp reversal of our traditional policy, a complete renunciation of that long-established principle of action commonly known as the Monroe Doctrine. While we accept this renunciation willingly enough as a necessity, and some accept it gladly, most of us doubtless accept it with regret, as the lesser of two evils; and probably most of us have been somewhat at a loss to know what could be the meaning of President Wilson's statement that in entering the war we are not really renouncing but only extending the Monroe Doctrine. The average hard-headed citizen has doubtless said to himself, "That is only one of Mr. Wilson's fine phrases, an expression of his idealism."

If the Monroe Doctrine means no more than it seems on the surface to mean, President Wilson's statement is indeed only a phrase, and not a very fine one at that. Superficially interpreted, the Monroe Doctrine seems to mean that since we are isolated and provincial in a geographical sense, we will be so politically. Possessed of a rich and easily defended country, we will ask no favors of Europe and will concede her none. "What have we to do with abroad?" Nothing. We mind our business, and respectfully ask Europe to mind hers. We are in the fortunate position of Little Jack Horner: having got, by our own efforts and the favor of Providence, an excellent Christmas pie, we have only to sit in our corner and eat it.

Now and then, for the edification of less happy peoples, we may very well pull out a plum and say: "Do you see? This is our plum. You eat your plum and we will eat our plum; but you must agree, since we have got such a fine one, that we are a very superior people." Now Mr. Wilson, whether his purpose be to get some of Europe's plum or only to give her some of ours, is clearly asking us to give up this attitude. He requires us to come out of our corner.

It is possible, however, that our motives in adopting the Monroe Doctrine may have been inspired by something more estimable than those of Little Jack Horner, something more justifiable than the mere narrow provincialism and petty selfishness of a people intent only upon being undisturbed in the pursuit of material well-being; in which case Mr. Wilson may be right after all in saying that in entering the European war we are not renouncing but only extending the Monroe Doctrine. But if that is so, then this doctrine must mean something more than it seems on the surface to mean. A consideration of the circumstances which gave rise to the Monroe Doctrine will in fact show, I think, that it was the expression of something more peculiarly American, of something far more important for America and for the world than any mere geographical or political isolation.

The policy embodied in the Monroe Doctrine was first clearly expressed by Washington. At that time the United States had but recently and with great difficulty won its independence from Great Britain. The war for independence was justified on the principle that all men have equal rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and that accordingly all just governments derive their sanction from the consent of the governed. When independence was won, the government of the United States was founded upon that principle; and from that day to this the guiding ideal of our political and social life has been the right of the people to govern themselves and the obligation of the people to assure, so far as possible, equal opportunity to all citizens. In its origin and in its history the United

States had stood for this or it has stood for nothing. Our whole social enterprise has been, in the estimation of Europe rather more than of America, an experiment in democracy on a large scale, the most momentous attempt in the history of the world to determine whether government of the people, by the people, and for the people might endure permanently.

In the days of Washington this venture of the United States was a fairly novel one, with no brilliant prospects of ultimate success. The newly established government was feeble, the country was loaded with debt, and public opinion was divided over the double danger of political anarchy and executive tyranny. Able men in America and in Europe believed that the United States must sooner or later surrender either its independence or its free government; that its feeble government must either give place to a strong monarchy or in self-defense be drawn into the system of European alliances and so lose the better part of independence. The opposition in the country between the Federalists and the Republican followers of Jefferson was greatly intensified and embittered by the French Revolution; while the European wars made it difficult and at last impossible for the United States to maintain its neutrality and at the same time defend its rights. After submitting to repeated humiliations, after resorting to every measure short of war, the United States at last fought with England the war which is sometimes called the second war of independence.

The policy of the United States during this period found classic expression in the famous Farewell Address of President Washington. "The great rule of conduct for us, in regard to foreign Nations, is, in extending our commercial relations, to have with them as little *Political* connection as possible.— . . . Europe has a set of primary interests, which to us have none, or a very remote relation.—Hence she must be engaged in frequent controversies, the causes of which are essentially foreign to our concerns.—Hence therefore it must be unwise in us to implicate ourselves, by artificial ties in the

ordinary vicissitudes of her politics, or the ordinary combinations and collisions of her friendships, or enmities. . . . If we remain one People, under an efficient government, the period is not far off, when . . . belligerent nations, under the impossibility of making acquisitions upon us, will not lightly hazard the giving us provocation; when we may choose peace or war, as our interests guided by our justice shall counsel.—Why forego the advantages of so peculiar a situation?— . . . Why, by interweaving our destiny with that of any part of Europe, entangle our peace and prosperity in the toils of European ambition, rivalry, interest, humour, or caprice?"

To understand why Washington so strongly urged this policy one must read the entire Farewell Address. It will then be clear that the danger which engaged him most was the danger of internal division. The principal part of the address is concerned with pointing out those evils which threatened to dissolve the union and to place the stamp of failure on the newly established federal government. To prevent this greatest of calamities he urged his countrymen to renounce those class enmities and sectional and party rivalries that were likely to weaken the union of the states; and it was precisely because he felt that entangling alliances abroad would endanger the union and undermine free government that he wished to avoid such alliances. "How many opportunities do they [exaggerated attachments or hostilities to foreign nations] afford to tamper with domestic factions, to practise the arts of seduction, to mislead public opinion, to influence or awe the public councils! . . . Against the insidious wiles of foreign influence, I conjure you to believe me, fellow-citizens, the jealousy of a free people ought to be *constantly* awake, since history and experience prove that foreign influence is one of the most baneful foes of Republican Government.—But that jealousy to be useful must be impartial; else it becomes the instrument of the very influence to be avoided, instead of a defence against it."

The situation which gave rise to President Monroe's famous message in 1823 was in some respects different from that which

confronted Washington and Jefferson. The government of the United States had become well established, the people were conscious of their power and wedded to their institutions. At the same time republican governments were being rapidly established in South America, where the revolted Spanish colonies had already practically won independence. In Europe, on the other hand, the public policy of the Great Powers was guided by reactionary ideals. After 1815 the chief aim of the principal states was to prevent a repetition of the stupendous conflicts which had characterized the Napoleonic era. To preserve the peace of Europe, in the opinion of Metternich, who was the guiding spirit, at least after 1818, of the Concert of Europe, it was necessary to maintain the existing political system. The chief danger to the existing political system was manifestly those republican theories spread abroad by the American and the French revolutions. It was therefore the duty of the Great Powers to act in concert in the suppression of all revolutions intended to propagate or establish republican institutions. And, in fact, at the Congress of Verona the four powers of Austria, Prussia, Russia, and France resolved that since "the system of representative government is equally as incompatible with monarchical principles as the maxim of the sovereignty of the people is with the divine right," they would bind themselves "mutually, in the most solemn manner, to use all their efforts to put an end to the system of representative governments, in whatever country it may exist in Europe, and to prevent its being introduced in those countries where it is not yet known." On these grounds revolutions in Italy were suppressed by Austria, France was given a free hand in restoring the Bourbons to the Spanish throne, and it was a mooted question whether the concerted powers had not bound themselves to suppress the South American republics and return them as colonies to Spain.

Under these circumstances the United States again declared its intention not to become implicated in the European system of alliances. In 1820, in an interview with Stratford Canning,

the English minister to the United States, Secretary Adams declared that "the European alliance . . . had . . . regulated the affairs of all Europe without ever calling the United States to their consultations. It was best for both parties that they should continue to do so; for if the United States should become a member of the body they would . . . bring to it some principles not congenial to those of the other members, and those principles would lead to discussions tending to discord rather than to harmony." But, in view of the threatened intervention of the European powers in South America, an intervention based avowedly upon hostility to republican institutions, President Monroe declared in his message of 1823 (the ideas were those of Adams more than of the president) that the "peace and happiness" of the United States would be endangered if the "allied powers should extend their political system" to any portion of the American continent. "The political system of the allied powers," he said, "is essentially different . . . from that of America. This difference proceeds from that which exists in their respective governments. And to the defence of our own, which has been achieved by the loss of so much blood and treasure, and matured by the wisdom of their most enlightened citizens . . . this whole nation is devoted."

It is to be observed that neither Washington nor Monroe supposed that Europe and America should have nothing to do with each other; the main point was that the United States would not enter into the European system of alliances, and would oppose the extension of the European political system to this continent. The most notable attempt to extend the political system of Europe to America occurred during the Civil War, when Emperor Napoleon III, by means of the French army, established an Austrian prince in Mexico on the ruins of her former republican institutions. Against this enterprise the United States protested vigorously; and the grounds of this protest were clearly stated by Secretary Seward in 1865. "The real cause of our national discontent is, that the French

army which is now in Mexico is invading a domestic republican government there which was established by her people . . . for the avowed purpose of suppressing it and establishing upon its ruins a foreign monarchical government, whose presence there, so long as it should endure, could not but be regarded by the people of the United States as injurious and menacing to their own chosen and endeared republican institutions. . . . The people of every State on the American continent have a right to secure for themselves a republican government if they choose, and . . . interference by foreign states to prevent the enjoyment of such institutions deliberately established is wrongful, and in its effects antagonistical to the free and popular form of government existing in the United States."

It can not of course be maintained that the United States has invariably acted with chastened purposes and worthy aims, or that it has never invoked the Monroe Doctrine except for the disinterested and ideal purpose of defending democratic institutions. Nor can it be denied that the policy embodied in the Monroe Doctrine has been an expression of our material interests. The historical process does not occur in a vacuum; the motives of individuals or of peoples are not pigeonholed. The Monroe Doctrine is based upon material interests precisely as much or as little as democracy itself. It may be safely said, however, that in the crucial instances of the formulation of the Monroe Doctrine one essential and determining influence has been the incompatibility of European and American political institutions and ideals; and fundamentally our policy has been to protest against the extension of the European political system to America because, on account of that incompatibility, such an extension would endanger our institutions as well as our interests. In this sense the Monroe Doctrine has been the expression of that most deep-seated of American instincts, the attachment to free government and democratic social institutions. It is as if we had said to Europe: "We are bound that this great experiment in democracy shall have a fair

chance. It may fail in the end. If so, let it at least be clearly demonstrated that the failure is due to inherent weaknesses and not to external interference. We propose, if it be a possible thing, to make this part of the world at least safe for democracy."

If this is the essential meaning of the Monroe Doctrine, is there anything in it which should restrain us from joining the Allies against Germany? If this is its essential meaning, are we not on the contrary committed by it to join the Allies against Germany? With the progress of the Great War it has become as clear as day that the vital issue in this stupendous struggle is whether democratic and peaceful, or autocratic and military, ideals are to shape the future destinies of Europe. Few Americans deny that a decisive victory for Germany would be an irremediable defeat for democracy. Can it be supposed, then, that such a defeat for democracy in Europe would not be a menace to democracy in America? Clearly not. A triumphant Germany would be more ominous than the Holy Alliance ever was; England defeated would be a more fatal reverse for the United States in 1917 than the restoration of the South American republics to Spain would have been in 1823. For a hundred years we have asked, and not in vain, that Europe should leave America free to try the great experiment in free government. Now that the better part of Europe is engaged in a desperate and uncertain struggle for the preservation of the very ideals of which we have been hitherto the professed champion, it is the part of wisdom as well as highly fitting that we should have our share in making the world safe for democracy. I can not think that in pledging our lives and our fortunes to bring about that fortunate event the people of the United States, whose country was "conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal," can be in serious danger of departing from their profoundest traditions.

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SOME POSSIBILITIES OF HISTORICAL FIELD WORK¹

Historical field work, as considered in this paper, is a form of organized historical effort which, in middle western communities at least, has only of late years achieved the dignity of a distinctive name. Historical societies and institutions have always engaged more or less in field activities, but field work, that is, systematic attempts to exhaust all the practical possibilities in this direction, is a recent development. So defined, field work has to do with the thoroughgoing conservation of the vast, yet unexplored or neglected, historical resources which abound, widely scattered, in every community. Its immediate object is to make known and permanently accessible, preferably in public depositories, all the discoverable materials of history in a community. Its ultimate aim must be to arouse the interest and to secure the coöperation of the community itself. Its successful prosecution, particularly at the beginning, requires the services of special workers whose business it is to go afield into the community highways and byways in search of the hidden document and of the citizen indifferent to the value of historical work, and to compel them, as it were, to come in. Its ideal is a community placed in permanent possession of all its historical treasures and made permanently mindful of their value.

Among the most potent of the factors which are serving to call attention to field work and to spur societies to serious effort in its prosecution, is the influence of changes which are taking place in our conceptions of history and of the function of historical societies. The demands of history, as we are com-

¹ Read in part at the stated meeting of the executive council of the Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, April 9, 1917, and at the tenth annual meeting of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association, Chicago, April 26-28, 1917.

ing to conceive it, greatly increase the variety and extent of the materials necessary to its production. The "vast ongoing common life" of a community, as one writer has expressed it, as well as the careers of outstanding individuals, must be represented among the sources. The thousand and one insignificant traces and indications of widespread movements and conditions must not be neglected for the one or two records of important events. No phase of the community life, whether it be political, social, economic, or otherwise, can be overlooked. Every period must be regarded as in its way equally important with other periods, and the present must be looked upon as a future past. In other words, there is a new realization of the fact that the ideal history of any community must await the accumulation, or at least the bringing to light, of all discoverable material relating to the life of that community. There is a new consciousness of the incompleteness of sources now available. There is a new sense of the importance of a service which historical societies have long since undertaken to perform. Less now than ever can these societies render that service by taking a receptive attitude or by merely making occasional forays into the field, because much of the newly desired material is especially liable to destruction. Active and extensive campaigns of search and education in the field are therefore plainly necessary.

The conviction that this work ought to be done, as well as the hope that it can be done, are both immensely reinforced by the growing belief that the adequate performance of this and of related tasks is a social duty which historical societies owe to their communities and which communities owe to themselves. The conception of such societies as performing a definite and necessary social function not only gives new force to their obligations but also enables them to appeal more confidently for the coöperation of the people whom they serve. Communities, as such, have already recognized the community-wide importance of historical activity to the extent of according to it varying degrees of sanction and of financial support.

The citizens of a community also, as individuals, may be brought to assist in the actual doing of work—especially that of collecting materials—which their responsible agents, no matter how well endowed, can not accomplish without their help.

Important beginnings of field work have been made in a number of Mississippi Valley states, notably in Illinois, Michigan, and Minnesota. In each of these states representatives of central agencies have engaged in field activities of state-wide scope. These efforts have varied in immediate purpose and in method, but all point to the same general end. As the most recently undertaken, the work in Minnesota includes all the significant types of field activity thus far developed in the middle west. An account of the plans, results, and prospects in the Minnesota field may serve to indicate some of the possibilities of systematic field work in general.

The work in Minnesota was begun in September, 1916, with the appointment by the Minnesota Historical Society of a field agent, who was to devote his time to work for the society in various parts of the state. The plan was that the agent should ultimately visit each county and while there make an inventory of the county archives, search for material of historical value in private hands, securing the same for the society whenever possible, and, finally, encourage in every possible way local historical activity. His work has from the first centered upon the definite task of inventorying the county archives. The pursuit of other objects was to depend somewhat upon developments in the field; but the results of the more tentative efforts have been so encouraging and so many new possibilities have arisen that much time has been spent in each county visited, and that, too, at the county seat alone, work in other parts of the county having been temporarily postponed.²

² Up to May 1, 1917, the county seats of Anoka, Sherburne, Mille Lacs, Washington, and Isanti counties have been visited. Some time has been devoted to field activities in St. Paul and Minneapolis also, and to the discharge, at society headquarters, of duties connected with field work in general.

The work on the county archives is being conducted along the lines followed in the recent survey of the Illinois county records. In the first place, the archives are inventoried; that is, such notes are taken on the character and extent of the records as will furnish the data for all-inclusive and descriptive lists showing the research worker what sort of information he may expect to find in the several depositories. It is the intention that this survey will be conducted in all the counties, and that the final result of this part of the work will be a much-needed guidebook to the county records of the state. In connection with each inventory facts relating to the condition of the records and to methods of keeping and preserving them are noted also, for upon these factors much of the present and future usefulness of the archives for both administrative and historical purposes obviously depends. The information thus gathered will serve as a basis for outlining and urging the enactment of such remedial measures as will then appear to be necessary.

The condition of affairs in Minnesota, as revealed in the five counties visited, is similar in all important respects to the situation in Illinois as discovered and fully set forth in Dr. Pease's volume on the county archives of that state.³ The inventories reveal the existence of material containing a wealth of information, much of which has not yet found its way into histories. The character of this material may be indicated by an enumeration of a few of the more important groups of records which relate to the life of a whole community, and cover, more or less completely, the period of its political existence. Of these the county commissioners' records constitute the nearest approach to a connected and inclusive account of a county's past, but an amazing amount of instructive detail may be derived from such series as registers of births, deaths, and marriages, probate records, naturalization papers, census sched-

³ Theodore C. Pease, *County Archives of the State of Illinois* (Illinois Historical Collections, vol. 12, *Bibliographical Series*, vol. 3—Springfield, 1915).

ules,⁴ election material, agricultural statistics, abstracts of original entries of government land, assessment rolls, and tax lists. One can not go through these records, even in the cursory manner which suffices for an inventory, without noting numerous separate documents or items of historical and of human interest. At Anoka, for example, are to be found a few records of Manomin County, a diminutive political unit which existed for a few years in the early county-making days, but which is now the township of Fridley, Anoka County. Among the early plats of St. Paul and St. Anthony on file at Stillwater⁵ is one, dated 1848, upon which the following notation is inscribed: "St. Anthony city is one mile below the falls of St. Anthony which from the amount of water power and ease with which it is controlled is destin[ed] to be one of the most extensive manufact[ur]ing places in the united states is the only place above St. Paul on the East side of the river where a landing can be made . . . It is the highest point attained by Steamboats being amediately at the foot of the rapids and is unequivocally destined to be the landing and reshiping point for all the Mississippi valley above." The period of townsite speculation and of "paper towns" is vividly brought to mind by the following statement appended to a delinquent tax list for the year 1857 by an Anoka tax collector: "In regard to the Tax of these lots in Glencarrie," he wrote, "Your Collector would respectfully report that after diligent

⁴ A file of census schedules containing the official returns made by Washington County census-takers in connection with national and state censuses from 1850 to 1885, together with a local census of Stillwater taken in 1853, has been transferred to the historical library. While most of this material appears to be duplicated by similar records on file in the state archives, it supplies the lack there of a number of important schedules for 1860 and all the schedules for 1880.

⁵ For a number of years prior to the organization of Minnesota Territory in 1849 the region between the St. Croix and the Mississippi rivers, including the sites of St. Paul and St. Anthony, was a part of the old St. Croix County, Wisconsin Territory, the county seat of which was Dakota, a townsite included within the present limits of Stillwater.

search, he has not been able to find any town by that name." Local officials sometimes found difficulty in knowing just what was expected of them. An instance of this kind appeared in connection with the taking of the 1875 census in Washington County. Census-takers were supplied with printed schedules which called for information about the name, age, sex, color, and condition of each resident in their respective districts. There seems to have been some doubt as to just what was meant by "condition." At any rate all but one of the enumerators failed even to hazard a guess, and that one settled the question simply by reporting the condition of every one in his territory as "good."

The courthouses in which these records are kept are all old buildings which have been more or less well adapted to meet present-day needs. Only one of them appears to be of fire-proof construction, but all are equipped with supposedly fire-proof vaults. Most of the records are kept in office vaults of brick and cement, or in steel cases in the offices. Three counties make use of basement rooms and vaults for storing large masses of non-current records. In one county the overflow from all the offices is stored in a vault attached to the courthouse. The door of this vault opens into the courthouse yard and is commonly left unlocked. Most of the vaults are equipped with metal filing boxes and shelves, though the old-style pasteboard boxes, wooden shelves, and pigeonholes have by no means been entirely displaced.

The records have suffered by reason of fires, destruction by officials, exposure to dust and damp, lack of space, and faulty methods of filing. In one county the auditor's records for the first thirteen years, covering the period from 1860 to 1873, were practically all destroyed by fire. In two instances, it is said, officials have disposed of old records to make room for new, and the unexplained absence from the archives of a number of record series which are known to have existed is probably attributable to similar action, or at least to neglect, on the

part of other county officers. As a rule records have not been adequately guarded against dust and damp. Not the least serious menace is due to the crowded condition of nearly all vaults and storerooms. Shelves are full and are sometimes packed tight with volumes. Filing boxes, as a general rule, are stuffed so full that to handle the contents without injuring them is difficult, if not impossible. Nearly every vault has its portion of loosely stacked volumes and papers on the floor or on the tops of the filing cases. Large quantities of documents are so compactly folded, doubled, or rolled, and have acquired so firm a set in these forms that one hesitates to disturb a given paper lest to replace it would require a readjustment of all the records.

In very few of these county offices are the records systematically arranged throughout. This is especially true of the non-current records, and of the exceptionally large quantity and variety of records in the auditor's offices. Records belonging to a distinct group are seldom kept together. In cases where like records are grouped in a body, they are commonly without serial arrangement. Bound records of the same kind have various titles. The contents of filing boxes are rarely indicated accurately by the labels, and not a few of the latter are wholly misleading. These facts would seem to indicate the prevalence of conditions which seriously threaten the permanence and diminish the utility of county records throughout the state.⁶

An important feature of work in the field is the investigation of local newspapers and newspaper files. Numerous and extensive as are the files of Minnesota newspapers at the state historical library, not all the publications of the state are to be

⁶ Thus far it has not seemed advisable to inventory other public records such as those of cities, towns, and villages, but occasion has been taken to make preliminary investigations with a view of doing this in the near future. The first-hand information thus secured serves to strengthen the belief that town, as well as county, archives contain material the character and condition of which should command the attention of historical institutions.

found there and many files are incomplete. Information about local files is therefore sought chiefly with the object of increasing the extent of readily available newspaper material either through accessions to the central collection or through centralized information about supplementary files to be found in the localities. In a large percentage of cases local collections include either whole files or parts of files which are lacking in the central depository. One such file has been secured, and notes made of a number of others not at present obtainable. Two important publications have been added to the number of those regularly received by the society. Lists of all files retained in the localities, whether such files are duplicated in the central depository or not, are placed within the reach of students at the historical library. Furthermore, the attention of publishers is called, if necessary, to the importance of safeguarding their own files, especially those which are not duplicated elsewhere. In one instance where this was done, the publisher supposed that a complete file of his paper was available at the state historical library, and he was surprised to learn that there is a gap of some twenty-four years in this file. On the other hand, the checking-over of a local file not infrequently shows that there are parts of it the existence or lack of which has hitherto been unknown to the publisher. Other facts might be brought out which would further emphasize the value of such a first-hand survey of the entire newspaper resources of the state.

A like systematic, though less exhaustive, search for other material of historical value in private hands is made with a view of acquiring, or at least of locating and listing it. Before going to a county, the agent informs himself of the broad aspects of the county's history, making note of the sort of material to be especially sought out, and of the names of people most likely to have it. For this purpose the much-berated county history is useful, especially in cases where the author has revealed the existence of original source material in the

locality.⁷ A bibliography of all material in the historical library relating to the county to be visited is prepared, and the names of members of the Minnesota Historical Society residing in the county are noted, together with such other available data as will facilitate the prompt inauguration of the work both of collecting material and of arousing local interest in historical activity.

Arrived in a community, the agent announces his presence and states his mission in the local newspapers. It is then comparatively easy to get in touch with those who can supplement the information already in hand and thus point the way to a large number of likely prospects. The pioneer, the prominent citizen, the person who is known locally as "a great hand to save everything," or the families of such men, are naturally among those visited. But it may be assumed that every one has something and that records of one kind or another may be looked for everywhere, for they have been found in hovels and in fine homes, in bank vaults and in granaries, in cigar stores and in newspaper offices, in groceries and in vacant houses, though, strange to say, the traditional attic has as yet yielded nothing. Not infrequently the trail leads to places outside of the state and must be followed by means of correspondence conducted for the most part at society headquarters between tours.

The process of getting at and acquiring material is not, however, quite so simple. Without the rights of search and con-

⁷ In this and in other respects the history of the county is so closely associated with the historical interests of a local community that all aspects of it come within the range of a field worker's interest. Most of the Minnesota county histories at present in print are the products of commercial enterprise, and exhibit the marked defects characteristic of that type of publication. The appearance from time to time of new works of this class affords the field agent opportunity to make criticisms and suggestions, which appear in reviews of these histories in the MINNESOTA HISTORY BULLETIN. It is encouraging to note that one professional writer and editor of commercial histories has shown a desire to cooperate in efforts looking toward the production of more scholarly works.

demnation the agent is compelled to use whatever arts of diplomacy and powers of persuasion he may possess. A hearing is usually accorded, though people are always "busy" (until interested), and one or two very brief interviews have been conducted through slight openings in front doorways. The commonest difficulty lies in getting people to understand that what is wanted is the materials or sources of history rather than historical or reminiscent accounts. That understood, it is necessary to emphasize the fact that very old and curious documents and relics are not the only things of historical value. If, then, it appears that people know what is wanted, that they know or will find out what they have, and will display it, the oftentimes delicate task of getting permission either to inventory or to secure the material for the historical society yet remains. In asking for material a powerful argument is supplied in the many known instances of like material thoughtlessly or accidentally destroyed. A moderate appeal, also, to personal, family, or local pride is seldom without some effect. Whenever material, especially that of undoubted historical value, is not obtainable at the moment, an effort is made to impress upon the owner the importance of safeguarding it, and to secure the promise of its ultimate deposit in the state historical library or in some other suitable public depository.

These activities have resulted already in the acquisition of considerable material and of information, carefully recorded, about material which may yet be secured. The material acquired dates from the last years of the eighteenth century onward, though most of it falls within the last sixty years, and some of it is quite recent. It is largely local in character and is valuable more for the cumulative than for the independent character of its evidence. The printed matter includes such items as works by local authors, old school books, directories, charters and ordinances of cities and villages, publications of local institutions and organizations, and miscellaneous ephemeral matter. The manuscript material includes several collections of letters and papers, one of which comprises thousands

of documents; a number of business account books, which have to do with such matters as logging, lumber manufacturing, mercantile transactions, and river transportation; and a quantity of miscellaneous documents. A number of maps, both printed and manuscript, together with numerous pictures, photographs, and miscellany, make up the remainder.

But valuable as these acquisitions undoubtedly are, they are probably insignificant as compared with what might have been secured had there been time and favorable opportunity for following up all the known prospects, to say nothing of others yet to be discovered. A number of collections were not available when they were located because of their close association with the lives and interests of the owners, who were, in most cases, aged pioneers. Still other material, accounts of which were promising, was stored in such a manner as to render it temporarily difficult of access. The task of inventorying and perhaps of securing two very large collections of records relating to lumbering on the St. Croix had to be deferred because those in authority were either out of town or too busy at the time to give the matter the attention it required. The owner of a very valuable collection of the letters and papers of two pioneer missionaries retained them with the expectation of using the material for publication.⁸ Another important collection was withheld in the hope, apparently without much foundation, that some agency in the locality where it originated might be induced to make adequate provision for its preservation and use. Finally, an unknown quantity of material is in the hands of the large number of people who were not reached in the comparatively short periods of time available for this phase of the work.

Some part of this unfinished work may yet be done through correspondence or on return visits, but it is obvious that only one who is permanently on the ground will be in a position to exhaust all of the possibilities. Here is where actively inter-

⁸ This collection, when discovered, was about to be taken to a distant city, where it might easily never have come to light.

ested residents and local societies should come in, and it is the field agent's business ultimately to see that they do so. On a first visit, however, the character and extent of his efforts in this direction must be determined largely by the situation as he finds it. It so happens that in the localities thus far visited there is little active interest in local history and so far as this interest goes it is limited to a very few members of the state historical society and one local pioneer association which is predominantly social in character. It has therefore been possible only to commence a work which will be carried to completion as favorable opportunities arise. Of course the very search for material serves at least to call attention to historical activity. Furthermore, every opportunity is seized to acquaint people fully with the character, importance, and needs of the work which the state historical society is doing. Those who appear to be interested and those who ought especially to be interested are invited to join and coöperate with the society. A definite effort is made to enlist the interest of some one person in each locality who will agree to keep a lookout for material; one who will either take steps to secure such material or inform the society about it; one, in short, who will act as a sort of representative of the society in his community. Conferences, also, are held with librarians, teachers, and others that the foundation may be laid for coöperative effort on the part of the historical society and local schools, libraries, newspapers, and organizations. Finally, suggestions are made which, if followed, will facilitate the organization of local historical societies.

When the time is ripe, it is proposed to follow up this work along the lines of some such comprehensive and definite plan as that worked out in Michigan, where a systematic effort is being made to enlist the services of local workers and organizations all over the state in promoting general interest and widespread coöperation in local historical activities of all kinds, with special emphasis at this time on the collection of material. A single worker may in time inventory all the public records

and newspapers and collect considerable privately owned material, but the fate of the public and of undoubtedly large quantities of private records rests with the people as a whole and as individuals. If, therefore, the field agent for the time being is more collector than missionary it is only that so much material as possible may be brought to light without delay and that the unrealized possibilities thereby indicated may be brought the more forcibly to public attention.

FRANKLIN F. HOLBROOK

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ST. PAUL

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

De svenska lutherska församlingarnas och svenskarnas historia i Amerika. By E. NORELIUS. Volume 2. (Rock Island, Illinois, Augustana Book Concern, 1916. x, 541 p. Illustrated)

Having spent the greater part of his life in religious work among the Swedes of the Northwest and serving as president of the Augustana Synod from 1874 to 1881 and from 1899 to 1911, Eric Norelius was well fitted to write an extensive history of the Swedes in America. In the first volume of this work, published by the Augustana Book Concern in 1890, Dr. Norelius follows the course of Swedish immigration and describes the Swedish settlements throughout the United States. The material is arranged in three parts, of which the first and last are comparatively short. Part 1 contains a general account of Swedish immigration in America and a specific treatment of the Jansonist settlement at Bishop Hill in Illinois. Part 2 takes up each settlement, its development and church organization, usually concluding with an autobiographical sketch of the most important pastor of the community, with some additional comments on his work. Over two hundred pages of this part relate to Minnesota and contain details concerning a large number of Swedish settlements. Among the outstanding ones are Chisago Lake, St. Paul, Red Wing, and Vasa. Part 3 includes a short history of the Lutheran Church, an explanation of the Lutheran Synod of Northern Illinois, the relation of the Scandinavians to this synod, and the conferences held under the union; and, finally, a chapter of a bibliographical nature listing the Swedish books and newspapers published in America up to 1860. Among the chapters of this volume most interesting to the student of history are: chapter 2 of part 1 dealing with emigration in general, showing the influence of Swedes in America upon future emigration and upon the course of emigration, of which the Hedstrom brothers are a striking example; and chapter 5 of part 2 dealing with Chicago, graphically describing the cholera year of 1854

and exemplifying the significance of religion through the work of Pastor Carlsson among the immigrants.

In the second volume, recently issued, Dr. Norelius deals with the history of the Augustana Lutheran Church in America. The volume is divided into four parts, of which the first consists of an account of the withdrawal of the Scandinavians from the Lutheran Synod of Northern Illinois and the consequent organization of a Scandinavian synod in 1864. Differences between the Norwegians and Swedes led to the establishment of separate synods in 1870. The growth of Swedish Lutheranism up to the present time is treated at length. Beginning with the eastern states, where manufacturing had created a large class of Swedish industrial workers, the account continues with the congregations of the Middle West, extending through the Mississippi Valley, and concludes with the establishment of Lutheran churches on the Pacific Coast, in the northern Rocky Mountain region, and Utah. Smaller Swedish congregations were also formed in Florida, Alabama, and Alaska—regions which lay outside of the synod geographical districts. The development in organization of the synod forms the subject of part 2. Here the formation of separate Norwegian and Swedish synods in 1870 is again treated and with more detail. Anniversary celebrations, such as the third centenary, in 1893, of the establishment of Lutheranism in Sweden, are described. Accounts of Augustana College, its foundation and location in Chicago in 1860, its removal to Paxton, its second removal to Rock Island, and the celebration of 1910, are scattered throughout this part. Part 3 defines the doctrines of the church and explains the church government. Descriptions, statistical in character, are given of institutions; such as schools, orphanages, hospitals, and homes for the aged, maintained by the synod. The largest division, part 4, is a detailed account with statistics of the twelve conference units of the synod, their organization, growth, and activities. The book concludes with a general summary of both volumes and a statistical résumé.

Although an occasional biographical sketch or description gives an insight into conditions of the time, the second volume stands out predominantly as a history of the Augustana Lutheran Church, based upon church records and reports. Other informa-

tion is incidental, scattered, and fragmentary, sometimes merely a repetition of, or reference to, material in volume 1, which for the student of history other than religious is of greater value. The plan of the two volumes as a whole, the division into parts, and the contents of the parts, might have been better unified, more coherent, and less redundant. Fortunately for the reader, the second volume contains an index, though a meager one, for both volumes, the first having been without one.

Living through the greater part of the period of which he writes, Norelius is able to contribute a wealth of historical material based upon his own observation. He uses, moreover, information furnished by many other men of the time, most of whom appear to have been careful and conscientious in their reports. Norelius selects material judiciously; when in doubt of the authenticity of his information, he indicates the possibility of error. Much that is of interest is brought out in the numerous autobiographical and biographical sketches. An occasional bit of humor adds realism.

In writing the history of the Swedes in America and of their religious development, Norelius contributes much information about pioneer life, particularly in the Northwest. The Lutheran Church performed a great mission in binding the people together not only religiously but socially, serving as a source of education both as a school and a publisher, intelligently guiding and directing emigration, and generously giving spiritual aid and encouragement to the pioneer.

SOLVEIG MAGELSSSEN

Stone Ornaments Used by Indians in the United States and Canada; Being a Description of Certain Charm Stones, Gorgets, Tubes, Bird-Stones, and Problematical Forms. By WARREN K. MOOREHEAD. (Andover, Massachusetts, The Andover Press, 1917. 448 p. Illustrated)

The present work is the fourth volume in an excellent series by Mr. Moorehead on the Indians: their stone implements, weapons, and ornaments; their history during the transition period on the reservations set aside for them; and their later progress in civilization and citizenship as part of the body politic.

The ornamental stone artifacts and others of undetermined use herein described have only a scanty representation in Minnesota collections, as shown by the late Professor N. H. Winchell's work for the Minnesota Historical Society, entitled *The Aborigines of Minnesota*, published in 1911. Criteria of age, indicated by patina and weathering, and of distribution, especially as observed in the Lehigh region of Pennsylvania, are briefly discussed by Professor Edward H. Williams. The polished slate artifacts of New York are very instructively described and figured by Arthur C. Parker of the New York State Museum in Albany.

Abundant and admirable illustrations, including 265 figures in the text, five colored plates, and three maps, add greatly to the usefulness of this work. Its bibliography, in seventeen pages, is divided into a general group and the following special groups: amulets, banner-stones, bird-stones, boat-stones, discoidals, pendants, pierced tablets or gorgets, plummets, spatulate forms, hoe-shaped forms, tubes, and miscellaneous objects.

The term "problematical," applied to many of these artifacts, is defined as "meaning, in the strict sense, stones presumably made use of by chiefs, shamans, warriors and women for personal adornment or in ceremonies or during religious rites."

WARREN UPHAM

History of Douglas and Grant Counties, Minnesota; Their People, Industries, and Institutions. CONSTANT LARSON, editor-in-chief. In two volumes. (Indianapolis, B. F. Bowen and Company, 1916. 509, 693 p. Illustrated)

In the first volume of this work the history of Douglas and Grant counties is presented in separate series of topical narratives which deal in the usual way with such subjects as the beginnings and progress of settlement; the establishment and organization of counties and towns; the development of transportation facilities; the rise of cities and villages; agricultural, industrial, and commercial growth; the establishment and subsequent history of schools, churches, newspapers, and fraternal organizations; the professions; military history; and various "sidelights on county history." The second volume is devoted to biographies for the most part of living residents of the two counties.

About a fifth of the historical volume consists of reprinted material not improperly employed as an historical and descriptive background for the work. A chapter on "Related State History," which appears in nearly all recent Bowen publications, serves as an introduction to the county histories. The chapters on the geology of the two counties are taken (without acknowledgment) from volume 2 of the *Final Report* of the Minnesota Geological and Natural History Survey. A long chapter, entitled "The Kensington Rune Stone; an Ancient Tragedy," is for the most part a reprint of the preliminary report of the museum committee of the Minnesota Historical Society on the subject of the authenticity of this alleged ancient record,¹ although the report is not given quite "in full" as stated. In view of the fact that this famous stone was unearthed in Douglas County and that the question of the origin of its inscription is still a matter of dispute among archeologists, it is not surprising that considerable space should be devoted in the present work to this mass of evidence pro and con. The editor himself expresses no opinion and calls attention to the fact that, contrary to a more or less prevalent impression, the Minnesota Historical Society has never taken sides in the controversy, the last official statement being "that the Council and Society reserve their conclusion until more agreement of opinions for or against the rune inscription may be attained." Another passage of some length, and also of no little historical interest, is taken from a series of articles entitled "To Red River and Beyond," which appeared in *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*, one of which, published in August, 1860, contained an account of the passage of the writer and his party through the region of Douglas County. The "anonymous magazine writer," the author of the series, was Manton Marble, a New York journalist, who later became owner and editor of the *New York World*.

The histories proper of the two counties are made up of intermingled historical narratives, statistical material, and accounts descriptive of present-day conditions. Of special interest to students of Minnesota history are the portions which deal with the situation in this region at the time of the Sioux outbreak of 1862 and with the process of organizing the counties. The

¹ *Minnesota Historical Collections*, 15: 221-286.

former accounts furnish an admirable illustration of the double effect of the Indian war in retarding and in advancing settlement. In the matter of county organization a number of interesting features are brought out. Each county was created at a time when there were few, if any, settlers in that part of the territory. Douglas County was created in 1858, the very year in which permanent settlement began. The next year, however, according to this account, "a move was started to organize Douglas for administrative purposes . . . and an election was held. . . . Not all of the settlers were willing thus to assume the responsibilities of government and it is narrated that only a few voted. The returns of the election therefore were not recognized by the authorities and the election was held to be void. . . . Not long after," the governor, under legislative authorization, appointed a board of commissioners, who, in turn, appointed a register of deeds, a sheriff, and a probate judge. "This organization was maintained until the time of the Indian outbreak, when it . . . was abandoned and all records that had been made were lost." It was not until 1866 that a permanent and complete organization was effected. Grant County, created in 1868, was first fully organized in 1873. The governor had previously appointed three county commissioners, and it is said that "in 1872, Peter N. Smith and Henry Secor, two lawyers from Otter Tail county, came down and induced the county commissioners to appoint a full set of officers, with Secor as auditor and Smith as county attorney. These officers evidently never held their positions legally, as they left no official record, and their presence here is known only through tradition."

In the chapter on "Sidelights on [Douglas] County History" are presented extracts from a number of reminiscent letters called forth on the occasion of the "home-coming week" celebrated at Alexandria in June, 1916. It may be well to note in this connection that such an occasion also affords an excellent opportunity for bringing together and preserving such tangible records of the past as the home-coming or homeward-looking former residents of a community may possess.

In general the work calls for the same sort of commendation and criticism as is to be found elsewhere in these pages in reviews of other commercial histories. The narrative, however, in many

places shows a somewhat keener sense of historical perspective, a more critical use of material, and a fuller appreciation of the value of intimate detail than is commonly the case with writers of such histories. On the other hand, it would seem that a more thoroughgoing search for, and exhaustive investigation of, local material, both public and private, would have resulted in a fuller treatment of certain phases of the subject at least. It is to be regretted that more attention was not paid, for instance, to the causes, progress, and influence of the notable influx of Scandinavians, and of the local aspects of the career of the most noted resident of the region, Senator Knute Nelson.

FRANKLIN F. HOLBROOK

The Story of Minnesota. By E. DUDLEY PARSONS, instructor in English, West High School, Minneapolis, Minnesota. (New York, etc., American Book Company, 1916. 336 p. Illustrated)

Our Minnesota; a History for Children. By HESTER McLEAN POLLOCK, teacher of history and civics in the St. Paul high schools. (New York, E. P. Dutton and Company, 1917. xiii, 373 p. Illustrated)

These volumes, written especially for children, supply a need, which has for a long time been apparent, of a textbook on the history of Minnesota suitable for use in the grade departments of the public schools of the state. *The Story of Minnesota* is similar in form to other textbooks of this character, each chapter having its material arranged under black-letter topical headings and concluding with the customary summary, suggestive questions, and references to sources. In such texts the material must of necessity be treated in the briefest manner possible. Mr. Parsons, by a judicious selection of topics and by the use of a moderate amount of detail, has succeeded in placing before his young readers in satisfactory form the history of the early periods of exploration, settlement, and political organization. He devotes the latter half of the book to an account of the rapid development of the natural resources of the state, of its growth in population, of its advance along economic, social, and educational lines, of the men who have wisely and capably directed

and contributed to this development, and of the part which the state has played in the larger life of the nation. Comprehensive summaries of the machinery of local and state government and a discussion of the duties of citizens form the concluding chapters of the book.

The usefulness of Mr. Parsons' book is greatly lessened, however, by numerous errors and questionable statements which it contains. Most of the errors are due to a carelessness which is quite inexcusable in one who purposes to write history. The painting "Father Hennepin Discovering St. Anthony Falls," reproduced on page 24, hangs in the governor's reception room of the capitol rather than in the historical library; and the painting given on page 116 is not "owned by the Minnesota Historical Society," nor was it executed by "Frank B. Mayer," but by Frank G. Millet. The *Minnesota Historical Collections* are constantly referred to as the "*Minnesota Historical Society Papers*," and the Northwest Company is always called the "Northwestern Fur Company." Critical historians now consider it quite unlikely that Carver ascended the Minnesota "as far as Big Stone Lake" (p. 35); and Carver does not make any reference "in his journal" to "a grant of land which two Indian chiefs made in his favor" (p. 36). The first mention of the grant appeared in Dr. Lettson's introduction to the third London edition (1781) of Carver's *Travels through the Interior Parts of North America*, brought out after Carver's death. On page 47 Pike is quoted as saying that "1,000,000 acres . . . was obtained [by the treaty with the Indians in 1805] for presents of the value of two hundred dollars . . . and a promise binding the Senate to pay two thousand dollars." This statement does not appear in this form either in Pike's journal or in his letter to General Wilkinson. His estimate of the number of acres acquired was 100,000, and the amount to be paid by the United States was left blank in the original articles. The Senate, ratifying the treaty in 1808, stipulated that the amount should be two thousand dollars. Mr. Parsons' ideas of geography are somewhat confused when he declares on page 41, "Beyond [west of the Mississippi] was Louisiana, stretching from the Rainy River to the Gulf of Mexico." His statement on page 60 that if a person had "been born in eastern Minnesota in 1783, he would have been under

the rule of France, England, and the United States . . . before his threescore years and ten had been completed" is incorrect, since France did not have title to any land in Minnesota east of the Mississippi after 1763. One can not fail to wonder from what source Mr. Parsons took his population statistics for 1849 (p. 102). His items do not in any particular agree with those of the census of 1849 as given in the *Council Journal* for 1849 (p. 183). He assigns to St. Paul, for instance, a population of 2,920, whereas the census count shows that the town contained 840 persons. Dakota County is omitted from the list of counties established by the first territorial legislature of 1849 (p. 102). These and many other misstatements should be corrected in a second edition.

Mr. Parsons has made his text more interesting and instructive by the use of numerous illustrations. Those which are reproductions from photographs are valuable adjuncts. Drawings for a work of this character, however, unless executed by one who is well acquainted with the period, are likely to contain anachronisms which render them valueless. Some of those which are found in Mr. Parsons' book are open to this criticism and might well have been omitted, particularly the one representing "Radisson and Groseilliers with the Indians"—all mounted on horses! The lists of references at the close of the chapters would be of more service if they contained more definite information about publishers, date and place of publication, and number of pages.

Our Minnesota, while undeniably written for children, does not follow the conventional form of textbooks. The narrative is rather long; and it is so encumbered with a mass of details as to be burdensome and confusing. The propriety of devoting, in a school history, forty-four pages to an account of the Sioux and Chippewa Indians, twenty-four pages to the development of transportation facilities, and eighteen pages to the various exploratory expeditions to the upper Mississippi and lake region may well be questioned. The material of the book is not organized in accordance with a definite, well-ordered plan, and there is a noticeable lack of coherence and unity. Very little regard has been paid to the chronology of events—a method of treatment which naturally results in needless repetition. An account of the various treaties by which the Indians surrendered to the

government their title to lands within the territory precedes the chapter (6) dealing with the exploration period. The various exploratory expeditions to the Mississippi from the time of De Soto to the days of Schoolcraft are described in chapter 14, although much of the same material appears in chapter 6. A chapter devoted to the Civil War and to the Sioux outbreak is placed between chapters dealing with agricultural development and the history of transportation respectively, both phases of the state's history being traced from the earliest days to the present time. Miss Pollock has given us therefore not a connected history of Minnesota, but a series of sketches.

No footnote references to sources are given, the author contenting herself with a statement in the preface that "the sources which have been used are to be found largely in the diaries and papers of the Minnesota Historical Society, reliance put largely upon the statements of those who helped to make the history here related." The book is not entirely free from errors. Thomas Jefferson did not "make" the Ordinance of 1787 (p. 59). It was Schoolcraft and not Boutwell "who named Lake Itasca" (p. 103). When Henry H. Sibley came to Mendota, he made the trip on horseback from Prairie du Chien instead of from Traverse des Sioux, and he had the distinction of being a partner in the American Fur Company rather than one of its agents (p. 139). The statement (p. 159) that "when the territory began, there were only four counties" is not correct; the first territorial legislature created nine counties, three of which were declared to be organized counties. John Hawkins had played his part in the slave trade and gone the way of all bold seamen long before 1619 (p. 205).

Our Minnesota has, however, admirable qualities which go a long way toward offsetting these defects. Its author has been for many years an enthusiastic lover of Minnesota and its history. She is keenly aware of all the natural beauties of the state; of the romance and adventure which underlie so much of its history; and of all the economic, educational, and social advantages which operate to make it a wholly desirable place in which to live. Along with other educators she has advocated teaching to children the responsibilities of citizenship, but with more far-seeing wisdom than some, she has sensed that if children love

"the place where they live . . . care and responsibility for it will grow as a natural result." With this ideal in view, she has written this series of sketches, drawing with a loving and appreciative touch vivid pictures of the red men, the adventurous explorers, the fur-traders, and the pioneers, and investing each bare statement of fact and narration of event with vitality and interest. She leaves us at the last page with a feeling that her Minnesota has become "our Minnesota."

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

At the stated meeting of the executive council April 9, Mr. Franklin F. Holbrook, the society's field agent, presented a report on his work and a discussion of the possibilities of historical field work.

The legislature appropriated twenty-five thousand dollars a year for the maintenance of the society during the biennium beginning August 1, 1917. This increase of five thousand dollars over the annual appropriations for the last ten years will barely cover the increased expenses due to the general rise in prices and will not permit any considerable expansion of the activities of the society.

The following new members, all active, have been enrolled during the quarter ending April 30, 1917: Professor Carl D. A. F. Abbtmeyer of St. Paul; Hjalmar Anderson of Rush City; Rev. Philip Gordon of White Earth; Cyril A. Herrick of Minneapolis; Hiram M. Hitchcock of Redwood Falls; Mrs. Marie L. Bottineau Baldwin of Washington, District of Columbia; and O. G. Boisseau of Holden, Missouri. Deaths among the members during the same period were as follows: Bishop Samuel C. Edsall of Minneapolis, February 17; Hon. Orlando B. Turrell of Redwood Falls, March 10; Lycurgus R. Moyer of Montevideo, March 14; Josiah Paine of Harwich, Massachusetts, March 14; and General Judson W. Bishop of St. Paul, March 19. All were active members except Mr. Paine, who was a corresponding member.

The *Western Magazine* for March contains an article entitled "The Minnesota Historical Society, an Exposition of the Importance of Its Public Work," by Franklin F. Holbrook, field agent of the society. Accompanying the article is a picture of the new building.

The inventory of the public archives of Minnesota, compiled by Mr. Herbert A. Kellar in 1915 under the joint auspices of the Minnesota Historical Society and the public archives commission

of the American Historical Association, has been reprinted from the *Annual Report* of the association for 1914 with the title *A Preliminary Survey of the More Important Archives of the Territory and State of Minnesota* (Washington, 1916. Pp. 385-476). Mr. Kellar's survey consists of detailed lists of the papers and records in the offices of the governor, secretary of state, attorney general, state auditor, state treasurer, adjutant general, clerk of the supreme court, superintendent of education, insurance department, railroad and warehouse commission, department of grain inspection, department of weights and measures, dairy and food department, and state drainage engineer. As the present location of files in the vaults and offices is indicated, the work will greatly facilitate the consultation of the records for administrative as well as for historical purposes. The outstanding conclusion to be drawn from the report is that there is great need of more adequate provision for the arrangement and preservation of these fundamental materials for the history of Minnesota. "In most cases the officials have made the best use of what opportunities there were for safe-guarding archives; but, with the exception of those in the regular office vaults in the new capitol, there is no guarantee of safety from fire and water." Almost equally serious is the disorderly condition of many of the older records, exposed to dirt and in danger of destruction as waste paper. It is to be hoped that the legislature will ultimately provide the necessary funds for the establishment of an archives department in the new Minnesota Historical Society Building.

GIFTS

From Judge Grier M. Orr the society has received a collection of about seventy miscellaneous pamphlets, some of which are of considerable value for Minnesota history, and a partial file of the *Minnesota Law Journal* published from 1893 to 1898. Numbers 2, 3, and 5 to 8 inclusive of volume 1, numbers 4 and 5 of volume 4, and number 9 of volume 5 are needed to complete the file.

From Joseph R. Murtaugh, manager of the Bronson-Folsom Towing Company, Stillwater, have been received six account books of trips made in 1908 and 1909 by the "Clyde," a steamer

engaged in rafting logs and lumber on the St. Croix and Mississippi rivers between Stillwater and Dubuque, Iowa. The record of each trip includes detailed accounts of expenditures for labor, fuel, food, and sundries, the "log book," and an account of rafts received and delivered.

Mr. Cass Canfield has presented a small, attractively bound volume published by himself, containing a number of letters found among old papers belonging to his great grandfather Lewis Cass. The collection, issued under the title *General Lewis Cass, 1782-1866* (1916. 41 p.), includes letters to Cass from James Monroe, Louis Philippe, Andrew Jackson, and James Buchanan, and two written by Cass himself.

Besides three volumes of *Indiana Historical Collections* and eight numbers of its *Bulletin*, the Indiana Historical Commission has presented a copy of the medal designed by Miss Janet Saddler and struck in commemoration of the centennial of the admission of Indiana to the Union in 1816. This is mounted in an attractive booklet containing information about the medal, the centennial, and the history of the state. The copy received is number 904 of 918 proofs, and the booklet contains the personal autograph of Governor Samuel M. Ralston.

The Rice Statue Commission has presented the society with a copy of a book entitled *Statue of Henry Mower Rice* (Washington, 1916. 90 p.), in which are printed the proceedings at Statuary Hall, in the Senate, and in the House of Representatives on the occasion of the presentation and acceptance of the statue of Henry M. Rice. A photogravure reproduction of the statue forms the frontispiece of the volume.

Copies of the *New York Evening Post* of February 8 and 9, 1815, have been presented by Mr. H. N. Westaway of Duluth. The latter of these issues is especially interesting as it contains the news of the battle of New Orleans.

From Miss Julia Crooks of St. Paul has been received an annotated copy of Irving's *Astoria* formerly the property of her grandfather Ramsay Crooks and said to have been presented to him by the author.

The society has received from Mr. Frederic W. Pearsall of Granite Falls a very good specimen of the ancient cloth woven by the Sioux women a hundred or more years ago. It is in the form of a bag about seven inches wide and five inches deep. In the earliest time the yarn employed in the manufacture of the cloth was spun from the shredded bark of nettles or basswood trees; later worn-out woolen cloth was utilized. Both sorts of yarn were apparently used to make the bag just acquired.

A photograph of eight members of the Fifth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, taken in St. Paul in 1896, at the time of the thirtieth national encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, has been received from Charles A. Rose, document clerk in the office of the secretary of state.

NEWS AND COMMENT

The *Proceedings* of the Eleventh Annual Conference of Historical Societies (Washington, 1916. Pp. 291-348) has been issued as a separate of the *Annual Report* of the American Historical Association for 1914. It contains papers on "The Chicago Historical Society," by Dr. Otto L. Schmidt; "Research in State History at State Universities," by James A. Woodburn; and "Restrictions on the Use of Historical Materials," by Lawrence J. Burpee. Discussions of the last two papers are also reported. An appendix contains summary reports of the activities during the year of ninety-three historical societies in the United States and Canada. Because of the unavoidable delay in the publication of these *Proceedings* as a part of the *Annual Reports* of the American Historical Association, a condensed report of the Thirtieth Annual Conference of Historical Societies, held in Cincinnati, December 28, 1916, has been issued independently (15 p.). It contains brief abstracts of papers on the affiliation or federation of state and local historical societies in Pennsylvania, Ontario, Michigan, Illinois, and Massachusetts; also the usual summary reports of the activities of eighty-seven societies. At this last conference a plan of organization as a semi-independent body under the auspices of the American Historical Association was adopted.

The *Fifteenth Report* of the public archives commission of the American Historical Association, edited by Victor H. Paltsits, chairman, has been reprinted from volume 1 of the *Annual Report* of the association (1916. Pp. 349-476). It consists of a brief statement of archive progress during the year and of two appendixes. One of these is the survey of the Minnesota archives noted elsewhere in this issue, and the other comprises the "Proceedings of the Sixth Annual Conference of Archivists," which was held in connection with the meeting of the American Historical Association in Chicago in December, 1914. This includes papers on "Legislation for Archives," by Charles H. Rammelkamp, and "Principles of Classification for Archives," by Ethel B. Virtue.

The tenth annual meeting of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association was held in Chicago, April 26, 27, and 28, 1917. The headquarters and most of the sessions were in the building of the Chicago Historical Society. Among the papers read at the meeting the following are of special interest to students of Minnesota history: "Glimpses of Some Old Mississippi River Posts," by Louis Pelzer of the State University of Iowa; "The Military-Indian Frontier, 1830-1835," by Ruth Gallaher of the State University of Iowa; "Fur-Trading Companies in the Northwest, 1763-1816," by Wayne E. Stevens of the University of Minnesota; "Some Possibilities of Historical Field Work," by Franklin F. Holbrook of the Minnesota Historical Society; "The Influence of the West on the Rise and Decline of Political Parties," by Homer C. Hockett of Ohio State University; and "A Plan for the Union of the United States and British North America, 1866," by Theodore C. Blegen of Milwaukee. The president's address, by Frederic L. Paxson of the University of Wisconsin, dealt with "The Rise of Sports, 1876-1893." At the business session St. George L. Sioussat was elected president and Mrs. Clara Paine of Lincoln, Nebraska, secretary-treasurer. The sentiment of the members present was in favor of holding the 1918 meeting in St. Paul, but the final decision was left to the executive committee.

The *Proceedings* of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association for 1915-16 comprises part 1 of volume 9 and is issued as an extra number of the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* (1917. 206 p.). It contains an account of the ninth annual meeting at Nashville in April, 1916, by Beverly W. Bond Jr., reports of officers and committees, the president's address by Dr. Dunbar Rowland on "The Mississippi Valley in American History," and such of the papers read at the ninth annual meeting as have not been printed elsewhere. The report of the committee on the management of state historical museums consists of "Notes on Some Western Museums," by the chairman, Charles E. Brown.

The Indiana Historical Commission, which was established two years ago to promote the proper observance of the centennial of the state's admission to the Union, has issued a series of eight

Bulletins, of which the last two comprise a formal report of the activities of the commission to December 1, 1916, and an account of the final celebration at Indianapolis on December 11 (42, 29 p.). Of special interest also is number 6 of these *Bulletins* entitled *Organization of County and Local Historical Societies*, by Harlow Lindley. This contains an excellent statement of the objects and advantages of such societies and a list of thirty-one already organized in the state. The constitutions and by-laws of several of these are printed as models. The desire of the commission that some of the permanent results of its work should be along the lines of the preservation of the materials for Indiana history has brought about the publication of three volumes of *Indiana Historical Collections*. These comprise *Constitution Making in Indiana*, a *Source Book of Constitutional Documents*, by Charles Kettleborough (1916. 2 v.), and *Indiana as Seen by Early Travelers, a Collection of Reprints from Books of Travel, Letters, and Diaries, Prior to 1830*, edited by Mr. Lindley (1916. 596 p.).

The *Twenty-ninth Report* of the Commissioner of Public Records of Massachusetts, for the year 1916 (8 p.) illustrates the way in which that state looks after its archives. The records of 165 counties, cities, and towns were inspected during the year with reference to their "care, custody, and protection against fire"; several towns and counties were required to have part of their records repaired, renovated, or bound; and one volume which had been in private hands was restored through court proceedings to the town to which it belonged. The commission also assisted a legislative committee "in making a complete survey of the public records in the offices of the State House and in formulating recommendations in connection with them." Although fires occurred in four buildings in which local records were preserved, no documents were destroyed because of provisions which had been made for their safeguarding.

Prize Essays Written by Pupils of Michigan Schools in the Local History Contest for 1915-16 is the title of number 8 of the *Bulletins* of the Michigan Historical Commission (1917. 35 p.). This contest was arranged and the prizes were furnished by the Michigan Daughters of the American Revolution and the Michi-

gan Federation of Women's Clubs. Similar contests are to be held each year and will doubtless be very helpful in arousing interest in local history throughout the state.

The Wisconsin Historical Society has brought out as number 85 of its *Bulletins of Information* a *List of Portraits and Paintings in the Wisconsin Historical Museum* (1916. 22 p.).

Bulletin number 1, descriptive of the museum and library of the State Historical Society of North Dakota, has been issued by the society (1917. 24 p.). The pamphlet is illustrated with photographs of a number of exhibits in the museum.

The Louisiana Historical Society, New Orleans, has begun the publication of a periodical entitled the *Louisiana Historical Quarterly*, the first number of which is dated January 8, 1917.

Mr. C. M. Burton of Detroit began last October the publication of a series entitled *Manuscripts from the Burton Historical Collection*, three numbers of which have now been issued (112 p.). The documents so far published relate in the main to the Northwest from 1754 to 1806 and are valuable contributions to history. They are edited by M. Agnes Burton.

A work full of suggestion for all students of conditions affecting the character, progress, and course of settlement in a new region is George N. Fuller's *Economic and Social Beginnings of Michigan*, published by the Michigan Historical Commission as the first number of its *University Series* (Lansing, 1916. lxxii, 630 p.). Intended to introduce rather than to exhaust the subject, the work is limited to "a study of the settlement of the lower peninsula during the territorial period, 1805-1837," and is based largely upon information derived from state and local histories, the *Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections*, early newspapers, and other readily available sources. Within these recognized limits the author has produced an elaborately conceived and comprehensive work which may well serve as an inspiration and a guide to any who may undertake similar studies in the field of Minnesota history.

In view of the recent entrance of the United States into the European war and the probable absence from their election districts of thousands of voters for an indefinite period of time,

Josiah H. Benton's *Voting in the Field, a Forgotten Chapter of the Civil War* (Boston, 1915. 332 p.) is of especial interest. At the outbreak of the Civil War there was no legislation in force by which a soldier or sailor could vote anywhere outside of the district in which he resided. The injustice of this situation was quickly recognized in both the North and the South. Mr. Benton has treated at some length "the history of legislation or an attempt to legislate in every Southern State except four,—Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas; and in every Northern State except Oregon," whereby this injustice might be remedied, a chapter being devoted to each state. The various sources of opposition to such legislation, the methods of voting in the field employed, and the results of the inclusion of the soldiers' votes in the succeeding elections are particularly brought out.

Evangelists Seier (Minneapolis, 1916. 256 p.), edited by Pastor Th. Himle, is published in commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Hauge Synod Chinese Mission, held in Red Wing, Minnesota, 1916. The book contains songs, sermons, reports, and letters, many written by the men and women actively engaged in the missionary work under the auspices of the synod. The biographical sketches, accompanied by photographs, are largely of Minnesota people. The greater part of the book, however, deals with conditions in China, the need of religious teaching, and the progress of the Lutheran mission work.

In order "to save . . . some portraits and observations that might otherwise be lost" Waldemar Ager has collected and edited in *Oberst Heg og Hans Gutter* (Eau Claire, Wisconsin, 1916. 327 p.) letters and diaries written by members of the Fifteenth Wisconsin Regiment. The organization of a Norwegian regiment was formally begun at a meeting of Norwegians, recently arrived in America, held in Madison, September 15, 1861. Norwegians, some of whom came from or later lived in Minnesota, made up over ninety per cent of the regiment. A short description is given of the reunion of May 17, 1914, at the Minnesota State Fair Grounds.

Nordmand og Norske Hjem i Amerika (Fargo, North Dakota, 1916. 208 p.) is the title of a book by Hans Jervell, published for the purpose of showing what Norwegians have done for the

development of the Northwest and incidentally to encourage the bygdelag societies. The book contains biographical sketches of Norwegians grouped according to the bygdelag from which they emigrated.

Along the Scenic Highway (96 p.) and *Opportunities along the Scenic Highway through the Land of Fortune* (151 p.) are two recent publications of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company. The former, attractively illustrated, covers the "historical, scenic, physical and railway features" of the region traversed by the railroad. The latter contains statistical data on the schools, churches, professions, industries, and commercial houses of cities and towns along the Northern Pacific line, the prevailing nationality of the population in each case being included.

A full account of the exercises in connection with the dedication of the monuments erected to Minnesota officers and soldiers who lost their lives in the Civil War and are buried in the national military cemeteries at Little Rock, Arkansas, Memphis, Tennessee, and Andersonville, Georgia, which occurred September 22-26, 1916, is contained in the *Report* (74 p.) recently issued by the Minnesota commission appointed by the legislature of 1913 to have charge of the placing of these memorials.

Janney, Semple, Hill & Co., Minneapolis, 1866-1916 is the title of a handsome book issued by this house to mark the fiftieth anniversary of its founding (62 p.). The history of the enterprise from its beginning as a retail hardware and stove business under the name of Janney and Moles to its present position as one of the leading jobbing houses of the Northwest forms an important chapter in the economic history of Minneapolis and of the entire state. Brief biographies of the men who have been prominently connected with the management of the business throughout its history and numerous illustrations add to the value of the publication.

The Third Infantry Regiment Minnesota Volunteer Association has issued the *Proceedings* of its thirty-second annual reunion, held at Minneapolis, September 6, 1916 (20 p.). A list of the members of the association recently deceased, reminiscent letters from absent comrades, and a memorial sketch of Major

James M. Bowler, by General C. C. Andrews, are noteworthy features of the pamphlet.

On October 14 and 15, 1916, a "Reunion of Old Boys" was held at Rochester, Minnesota, an account of which has recently been published by Charles N. Chadbourn of Minneapolis (61 p.). The pamphlet contains also a "List of Old Rochester Boys" and a panorama photograph of a group of those who attended the reunion.

An historical sketch of the Minnesota Boat Club, organized in St. Paul in 1870, is published in the spring, 1917, issue of *Corning's Quarterly Razoo*. The article is illustrated with photographs of a number of men who played a prominent part in the organization during its early years.

The April issue of the *Western Magazine* contains a sketch of Alexander Ramsey by the late Return I. Holcombe. The article is the first of a series entitled "State Builders of the West."

Under the title "Early Day Thrills Written by Pioneer," the *Mankato Daily Free Press* of April 16 prints a review and summary of Captain Potter's "Recollections" published in the November issue of the BULLETIN.

The problem of how the state of Minnesota may fittingly express in concrete form its recognition of the services rendered by one of its foremost citizens, Henry H. Sibley, seems about to be solved. The legislature of 1917 authorized the appointment by the governor of a committee to investigate the feasibility of the construction of a highway to be known as the General Sibley Memorial Highway. Starting at the junction of Chippewa Avenue and Annapolis Street, West St. Paul, the proposed highway is to follow the Mississippi River bluff until it reaches the limits of Mendota, whence it is to form a suitable approach to the Sibley House, which is located in the village and which, since 1910, has been in the possession and care of the Minnesota Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The project includes the setting-aside of a park to be called the Sibley State Park, which in extent shall conform to the limits of the tract generally known as "Happy Hollow."

Following an annual custom, the Native Sons of Minnesota observed the sixty-eighth anniversary of the organization of Minnesota Territory with a banquet and appropriate exercises at the West Hotel, Minneapolis, March 3. Judge J. W. Willis of St. Paul delivered an address on the history of territorial Minnesota, sketching briefly the leading events, tracing the Indian origin of a few geographic names, and relating incidents about some of the better known men of that period. Dr. H. M. Bracken of the Minnesota State Board of Health in a short talk emphasized the need of a more adequate system of the keeping of vital statistics, particularly of the registration of births.

The Pioneer Rivermen's Association held its annual meeting at the rooms of the Midway branch of the St. Paul Association on February 23. Twenty of the forty-three members were in attendance. A number of veterans in the packet service were called upon for brief speeches. Captain O. F. Knapp told of his carrying of DeHaven's Mammoth Circus up the Minnesota River on the "G. E. Knapp" in 1863, and William Cairncross of St. Paul described a trip of the "Dr. Franklin" up the Chippewa in 1848. An important action of the association was the tender to the government, in the event of war, of the services of its members as professional pilots on the Mississippi River. Samuel R. Van Sant was reelected president, and Fred A. Bill, secretary-treasurer. A full account of the meeting was contributed to the March 3 issue of the *Saturday Evening Post* (Burlington, Iowa) by Mr. Bill.

A movement, led by Dr. Herman Fjelde of Fargo, North Dakota, has been inaugurated among the Scandinavians of the Red River Valley to collect material pertaining to their early settlement in that region. An account of the project, together with information concerning the first Scandinavian settlers in the valley, appeared in the *Crookston Weekly Times* of February 3, under the title "Valley Folks Will Compile Norse History."

The fifty-eighth annual meeting of the Winona County Old Settlers' Association was held at Winona, February 22. About five hundred and fifty pioneers, including representatives from every section of the county, were in attendance at the dinner. The following officers were reelected for the coming year: H. L.

Buck, president; J. T. Blair, vice-president at large; Mrs. A. A. Marvin, secretary; and Edward Pelzer, treasurer. An executive committee of eight members and a vice-president from each town of the county were chosen. The principal speaker at the exercises following the business meeting was Edward Lees of Winona, who, after giving a brief description of the region of Winona County as it appeared to Lieutenant Pike and Major Long, in 1805 and 1823 respectively, devoted the greater part of his address to an account of the early settlement of the county and to a comparison of the economic and social conditions of pioneer days with those of the present time. Mr. Lees's address is printed in full in the *Winona Herald* of February 22.

The Red Lake County Old Settlers' Association was formally organized on April 20 at Red Lake Falls. The following officers were elected: Eli Lasha, president; Evangeliste Quesnell, vice-president at large; E. B. Buse, secretary; A. J. Pouliot, treasurer; Frank Jeffers, historian; a vice-president was named from each town, village, and community in the county. Membership in the association is limited to those who have resided in the county for thirty-five years or more. The names of seventy-six of the charter members, together with the dates of their settlement in the county, were published in the March 22 and 29 issues of the *Red Lake Falls Gazette*.

About one hundred and fifty former residents of St. Peter living in Minneapolis and St. Paul met at the rooms of the St. Paul Association, April 14, and organized the St. Peter Association of the Twin Cities. The exercises following the banquet were presided over by Thomas J. McDermott of St. Paul. Gideon S. Ives of St. Paul, Judge E. A. Montgomery of Minneapolis, State Senator Henry N. Benson of St. Peter, and Judge Henry Moll of St. Peter made short addresses giving their recollections of the early history of St. Peter, and Superintendent C. G. Schulz of St. Paul discussed the educational influence of St. Peter in the Northwest. T. J. McDermott was elected president of the association, Miss Hermine Konig of Minneapolis, corresponding secretary, and Oswald D. Curtis of St. Paul, treasurer.

A permanent association of former residents of Murray County living in Minneapolis and St. Paul was organized at their first

annual meeting on April 14 in St. Anthony Park. Mr. Ira C. Peterson of Minneapolis was elected president, Mr. J. A. Maxwell of St. Paul, secretary and treasurer, and Mr. Neil Currie of St. Paul, historian, of the association. The names of heads of families eligible for membership were published in the *Fulda Free Press* of April 27.

The sixtieth anniversary of the organization of Plymouth Congregational Church of Minneapolis was celebrated on April 26. In a series of four-minute talks the various periods and phases of the history of the church were covered briefly.

A list of the first settlers of Winnebago City Township, Faribault County, with the dates of their arrival, is published in the *Winnebago City Press-News* of February 24.

A biography of Peter Maurin has been appearing serially in *Wheelock's Weekly* (Fergus Falls) since January 25. The series contains some valuable material on the early history of Stearns and Otter Tail counties, particularly as relates to the development of business enterprises and of methods of transportation. Mr. Maurin was born in the province of Carniola, Austria, and, with his brother Marcus, came to Minnesota in 1859. They at once embarked in the business of selling merchandise, going from place to place throughout the central part of the state, at first carrying their packs on their shoulders, later traveling with horses and wagons. In 1864 they settled at Cold Spring, Stearns County, where they soon built up an extensive trade in merchandise, grain, and fur. In 1871 Peter Maurin removed to Elizabeth, Otter Tail County, and was engaged in business there until his death in August, 1914.

Mr. W. V. Working of Henderson contributed to the April 5 issue of the *Belle Plaine Herald* an account of an old cave on Ney hill in Tyrone, not far from where Scott, Sibley, and Le Sueur counties meet. The cave is an excavation made during the summer of 1862 by a small band of pioneers living in the vicinity as a place of refuge from the Indians. The writer's description of the little settlement and of its experiences during the Sioux outbreak is based on the recollections of Mrs. John Brahs of Henderson, the sole survivor of the pioneer Tyrone settlement.

Interesting and valuable incidents in the musical history of Minneapolis were contributed to the February 18 issue of the *Minneapolis Journal* by Charles H. Freeman and Wheeler W. Sidwell, two of the city's oldest musicians, in an article devoted to the life and activities of Franz Danz Sr. Mr. Danz, whose death occurred in Los Angeles, California, February 6, came to Minneapolis in 1878 and at once took an active part in musical affairs, being the founder of the well-known Danz band and orchestra. A picture of Mr. Sidwell accompanies the article.

A picture of the first locomotive to run into Minneapolis over the Minnesota Central Railroad, and a reproduction of the first time card issued by the road, appeared in the *Minneapolis Journal* of February 18, accompanying a sketch of Edwin A. Wright, the road's first engineer, whose death occurred in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, February 7. The Minnesota Central Railroad, the northern division of which, extending from Minneapolis to Fari-bault, was completed in October, 1865, is now a part of the Iowa and Minnesota division of the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad.

The beginnings of the Minneapolis street railway system are described in an article in the *Minneapolis Journal* of April 8. Some interesting details in connection with the construction, management, and method of operation of the horse-car lines of the early seventies are furnished by Mr. Amos Caverly of Minneapolis, who took out the first car over the first stretch of track to be completed.

The April 26 issue of the *Slayton Gazette* contains a letter written by Mrs. A. B. Lester, a pioneer resident of Murray County, which gives an account of the first school and of the first religious meetings conducted in the county as well as some interesting facts about the early settlers.

The story of the extension of the city limits of Minneapolis in 1867 so that Dorilus Morrison would be eligible for the office of mayor is told by Frederick A. Penny in the *Minneapolis Journal* of March 4 under the title "Pioneer Recalls How City Obtained Its First Mayor."



